

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 14944 250951Z
ACTION EA-12

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UNCLAS MANILA 14944

USDA/FAS FOR DAIRY, LIVESTOCK & POULTRY DIV.

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR
SUBJECT: IMPORT GUIDELINES FOR MEAT

REF: MANILA 13280

1. BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY (BAI) HAS PROVIDED AGATTACHE WITH A COPY OF THE NEW GUIDELINES FOR IMPORTATION OF MEAT FOR PROCESSING. ACCORDING TO GUIDELINES, YULO/KING RANCH WILL NOT BE INVOLVED IN IMPORTATIONS AS SPECIFIED IN PD 1297.

2. MAIN FEATURES OF GUIDELINES ARE: (A) ONLY LEGITIMATE MEAT PROCESSORS, LICENSED BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION COMMISSION (NMIC), WILL BE ALLOWED TO IMPORT MEAT; (B) ALLOCATIONS WILL BE DETERMINED YEARLY BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE THROUGH NMIC; (C) IMPORTERS SHALL FURNISH NMIC A MONTHLY INVENTORY; (D) IMPORTERS SHALL OBTAIN PRIOR CLEARANCE FROM BAI TO PREVENT IMPORTS FROM NON-APPROVED SOURCES; (E) ONLY IMPORTS OF BRISKETS SHALL BE ALLOWED BY PROCESSORS; AND (F) PROCESSORS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SELL IMPORTED PRODUCTS TO OTHER PROCESSORS OR TO OTHER PARTIES FOR SALE IN THE MARKET, GROCERY STORE, OR BUTCHER SHOPS.

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3. THE DIRECTOR OF BAI ALSO INFORMED THE AGATTACHE THAT PROCEDURES FOR IMPORTING QUALITY CUTS OF MEAT AND LIVE CATTLE AND GOATS SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED FROM CURRENT PROCEDURES AND EMPHASIZED THAT YULO/KING RANCH WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN IMPORTS.

4. COMMENT: PD 1297 WAS VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED BY ALL PARTIES; MEAT PROCESSORS, LARGE HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS, AND THE CATTLE RAISERS FEDERATION. THUS, GOP HAS DECIDED TO BACK OFF FROM IMPLEMENTING THE DECREE, AT LEAST FOR MEANTIME.

- THE GUIDELINES ON IMPORTS OF PROCESSING BEEF ARE DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE LARGE QUANTITIES OF BRISKETS FROM ENTERING FRESH MEAT MARKET AND COMPETING WITH LOCALLY PRODUCED MEAT. THIS IS A REASONABLE OBJECTIVE WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE YULO/KING INVOLVEMENT AS ORIGINALLY OUTLINED IN PD 1297. PRIVATE INDUSTRY PRESSURE APPEARS TO HAVE MADE THIS POINT WITH APPROPRIATE GOP OFFICIALS. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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